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Chile
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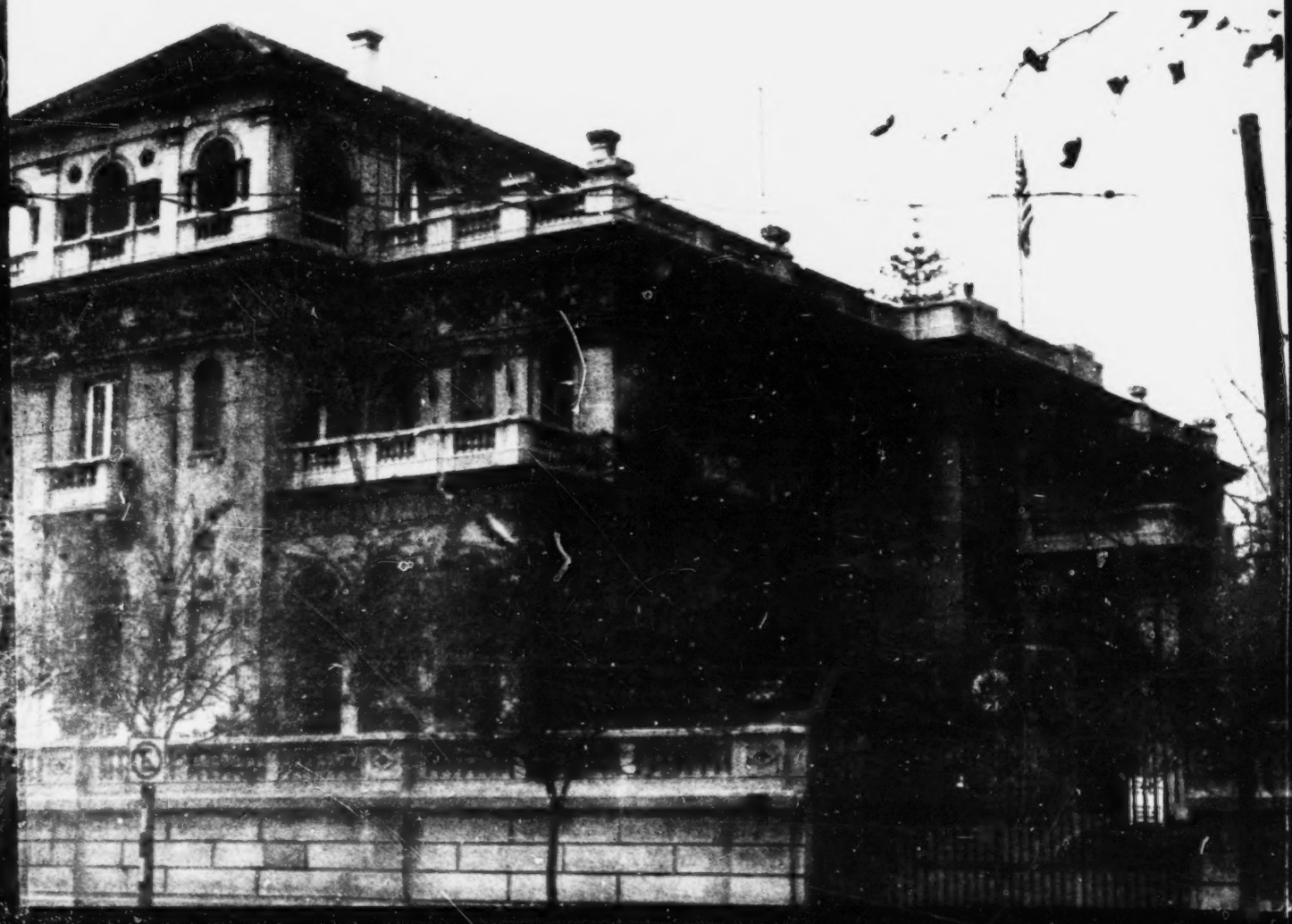

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This is the official post report prepared by the post. The information contained herein is directed to official US Government employees and their families. Any other information concerning the facts as set forth herein is to be regarded as unofficial information.

Cover: The Chancery annex in Santiago houses the Consular Section and USAID personnel.

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The Host Country

Area, Geography, and Climate

Chile is a long, narrow ribbon of land stretching almost 2,700 miles along the west coast of South America, between 17° 25' and 56° south latitude and 69° and 75° west longitude. Although it is one of the world's longest countries, its average width measures only 100 miles and its maximum width, only 250 miles. Santiago, Chile's capital and its largest city, is almost directly south of Hartford, Connecticut. Valparaiso, Chile's second largest city and the chief port of South America's west coast, is farther east than New York.

Chile, wedged between the Andes on the east and the Pacific on the west, is bordered by Peru on the north and Bolivia and Argentina on the east. Larger in area than any European country, except the USSR, Chile covers an area about the size of California, Oregon, and half of Washington State combined. Southern Chile is an archipelago with Cape Horn at its tip, where the Atlantic merges with the Pacific. Since Chile is south of the Equator, the seasons are the reverse of those in the Northern Hemisphere.

Chile has four distinct geographic regions: the northern desert (one-fourth of the country's land area); the high Andean sector, where many peaks reach over 20,000 feet; the central valley; and the southern lake district and archipelago. The northern fourth of the country, which has some of the most barren desert in the world, is rich in mineral products, such as copper and nitrates.

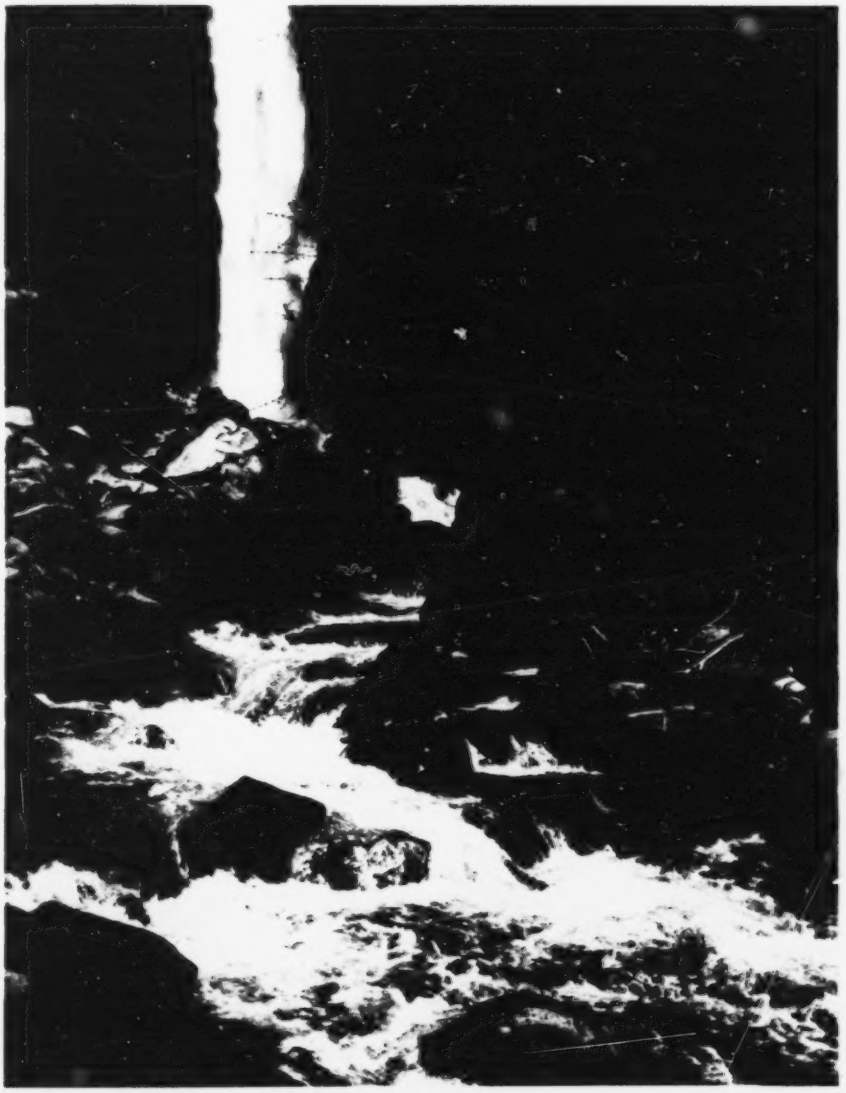
The Cordillera of the Andes, a majestic mountain chain stretching the length of the country, is climaxed by Mount Aconcagua (23,000 feet), the highest peak in the hemisphere. Excellent skiing, fishing, and mountaineering are available in these mountains.

The central valley, where most of the population lives, stretches over 700 miles from San Felipe to Puerto Montt. Separating the central valley from the northern desert is a 400-mile semiarid stretch known as "Norte Chico" (Little North).

The far south (Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego) and the last 200 miles of the central valley are strung with lakes in almost perfect formation on a line running north to south and parallel to the Argentine border. This is the famous lake region, renowned for its beauty.

A number of Pacific islands are Chilean territory. The Juan Fernandez Islands are 400 miles southwest of Valparaiso. The abandoned sailor Alexander Selkirk lived on one of these islands for 5 years; his adventure served as the theme of Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*. About 2,000 miles from Chile is the famous Easter Island, or Rapa Nui (Chilean since 1888), which is inhabited by Polynesians and distinguished by unique, gigantic stone monuments and carvings.

The climate is generally mild. In the far north, summers are warm and winters along the coast quite mild; the



One of many waterfalls and rushing streams in southern Chile.

San Francisco church in Santiago.

lake region is colder and wetter; in the far south (Patagonia) winters are long, cold, and wet. Despite the fact that much of the north lies within the Tropics, the climate is not tropical. The cold Humboldt Current off the coast and the relatively short distance between the coast and the snow-covered Andean peaks to the east modify what might otherwise be a hot climate. Long, dry summers (December-March) in Santiago feature warm days and cool evenings. The June-September winter season is rainy, and smog and fog make the cold more penetrating.

Population

Chile's population is about 11.3 million (1981). Unlike most Latin American countries, Chile is mainly urban (79%). More than one-third of its people live in the capital and environs (Santiago Province). As in other developing countries, the population is youthful. Nearly 80% of all Chileans are under 40 years of age, and half the population is under 21; only about 5% are 65 or over.

Chile is one of the more sparsely populated countries of Latin America (about 38.7 inhabitants per square mile). Its annual population growth rate is about 1.7%.

The family exists as a cohesive unit at all levels of society. A large middle class, with a nucleus of professional people, is important in business and government. But Chile also has a large class of city poor (pobladores) who live in poblaciones (makeshift new communities which ring the cities) and a rural population, including the indigenous Araucanian Indians, whose standard of living generally falls well below that of the urban population.

The largest ethnic group is Spanish. Other groups include German, English, Italian, Yugoslav, French, and Arab. The population includes a small number of Indians but almost no Asians or blacks. The Indians live mainly south of the Bio-Bio River and in Norte Chico. The most important aboriginal group, the Araucanian Indians, never has been assimilated fully.

During the colonial period, European immigration originated almost entirely from Spain; early colonizers were mainly Basques and Castilians. A small but influential number of Irish and English immigrants also played important roles in Chilean history. Bernardo O'Higgins, Chile's national hero, was of Irish descent.

After Chile won independence in 1810, many Irish, Scottish, and English immigrated to Chile. In 1845 an official Chilean colonizing agency was set up in Europe to stimulate immigration, particularly from Germany. A small group of German colonists who arrived in 1850 were the first of a large-scale immigration that continued for 90 years. Most Germans settled in the Valdivia-Llanquihue-Chiloe area in the south, where towns have an unexpected Bavarian or Saxon atmosphere.

Spanish immigrants continued to arrive in large numbers throughout the 19th century and were joined by Italians, French, Swiss, British, Yugoslavs, and others.

Despite the diversity of their origins, few South American populations are more homogeneous than the Chileans. Their homogeneity and insularity have resulted in large part from the isolation imposed by geographic factors: mountains, deserts, a vast ocean, and distance from cultural and political centers.

The Catholic religion predominates and is influential at all society

levels. However, religious freedom and separation of church and state are guaranteed by the constitution. About 10% of the population are Protestant.

Most Chilean holidays commemorate events important in the country's history or celebrate traditional feast days or holy days of the Catholic Church. The Fiestas Patrias, a 2-day celebration commemorating Chilean independence in mid-September, constitutes the main patriotic holiday. The greatest religious festivals occur during Christmas and Holy Week. Some areas emphasize other religious celebrations with century-old processions and dances.

Chilean cuisine is simple and hearty. Beef and chicken are the most popular main dishes. Cazuela—a stew of chicken, beef, pork, or fish— and the empanada, or turnover—filled with meat, fish, spiced onions, cheese, or even edible seaweed and served hot—are Chilean specialties. Wine accompanies all meals. Other typical Chilean drinks are: borgona, red wine mixed with sparkling water and fruit pieces; cola de mono, a Christmas drink, similar to our eggnog; chicha, hard grape or apple cider; and pisco sour, pisco mixed with sugar syrup and lemon juice. Pisco is an indigenous liquor distilled from grapes.

Public Institutions

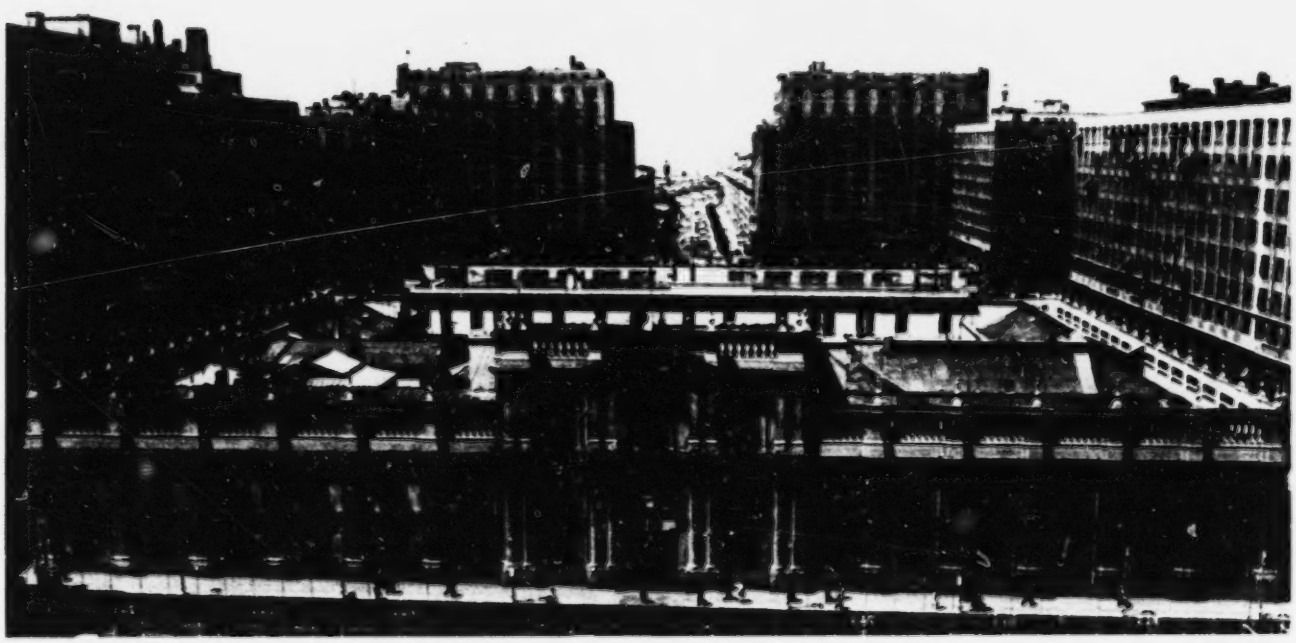
Chile is a unitary republic, ruled by a military government since September 1973. The current Constitution, which came into effect March 12, 1981, following majority approval in a plebliscite the previous year, establishes continued military rule during a transition period with a phased return to elected civilian government. Under this plan, transition will last until 1989, when a presidential plebiscite is scheduled, followed by congressional elections in 1990 and regular elections for president in 1997. Executive power resides in the presidency. During the transition, legislative powers are exercised by a four-member junta formed by the chiefs of the Navy, Air Force, and Carabineros (National Police), and a ranking Army General; Congress remains dissolved and political party activity is prohibited. The civilian judiciary, headed by the Supreme Court, continues to operate as an autonomous branch, as it did before the 1973 military coup, but it has limited jurisdiction in internal security cases. A "fourth branch" of government, an independent Comptroller General's office, audits revenues and expenditures and performs a legal review of financial legislation or regulations issued by the government.

Chile is divided into 13 regions, which are further subdivided into 51 provinces and 335 municipalities (comunas). The president appoints all regional administrators (intendants), provincial governors, and mayors.

Arts, Science, and Education

Arts. The fine arts, including theater, dance, music, and graphic arts, thrive in Santiago. All universities and the city of Santiago promote the arts. The University of Chile administers a professional symphony orchestra; ballet troupe (The National Ballet); theater group; and choir, made up of 120 trained amateurs, and professional soloists. Professional theater groups include one sponsored by Catholic University and several independent groups in Santiago. The University of Chile also has a professional theater that operates 9 months a year.

Santiago sponsors a professional symphony and ballet troupe and another nonprofessional choir similar to that of the University of Chile. Numerous solo and chamber music recitals are held throughout the May-October season. The city offers museums of fine arts and modern and folk art.



La Moneda Palace, the traditional seat of government, houses the President's offices and the Foreign Ministry. The Embassy offices are in a commercial office to the far right of the picture.

Chilean novelists and poets rank among Latin America's foremost. History is one of Chile's most original and widely cultivated literary forms; among Chile's famous historians are Miguel Luis Amunategui, Benjamin Vicuna Mackenna, Diego Barros Arana, and Jaime Eyzaguirre. More contemporary figures include historian Jose Victorino Lastarria, novelists Alberto Blest Gana and Eduardo Barrios, and poets Gabriela Mistral (Nobel Prize 1945) and Pablo Neruda (Nobel Prize 1971).

Most of Chile's folk and popular music follows Spanish tradition. The "cueca" (of Peruvian origin), the country's most popular folk dance, is also the national dance. The music for it often is played on guitar and wooden harp. Prominent Chilean musicians include Domingo Santa Cruz, a composer who sponsored a group of Latin America's most distinguished contemporary composers; Claudio Arrau, one of the world's most respected pianists; and famous operatic tenor Ramon Vinay.

Science. Both Chileans and foreigners have explored, studied, and mapped Chile for more than a century. British naturalist Charles Darwin is one important contributor to the knowledge of Chile and its resources. The Chilean Government aids and encourages science. Science departments have been added to universities, and institutions such as the Institute of Bacteriology and the Chilean Meteorological Institute have been established. The Chilean Scientific Society publishes scientific essays and journals. A large, and recently renovated, Museum of Natural History is in Santiago.

Although Chile, unlike Peru or Mexico, was never the seat of a great Indian culture, recent archeological research in the northern deserts has uncovered considerable evidence of Inca and earlier influences.

Its location and clear desert air have made northern Chile the center of Southern Hemisphere astronomical research. Three of the world's great observatories are in Coquimbo Province.

Education. Of Chile's 13 universities, the University of Chile, founded in 1842, is its most prestigious. Its first rector was the famed Andres Bello. The University of Chile in Santiago has no branches in the provinces and offers 12 academic career choices to about 9,000 students.

Like the University of Chile, the Catholic University in Santiago concentrates on medicine, engineering, economics, law, dentistry, pharmacy, agriculture, and architecture. It has branches in Talca, Talcahuano, Temuco, Villarica, and Curico. Also in Santiago the Universidad de Santiago de Chile has a strong engineering faculty and a 2-year technical school. In the southern city of Concepcion, the University of Concepcion and the new University of Bio-Bio serve the Chillan-Temuco area, along with a new university in Temuco, the Universidad de la Frontera. Valdivia's Austral University, serving students of the Valdivia-Osorno-Puerto Montt area, emphasizes agronomy, forestry, veterinary medicine, medicine, and the social sciences.

Valparaiso has three universities: the Catholic University; the University of Valparaiso; and Santa Maria Technical University of Valparaiso, which concentrates on engineering. The University of the North and the University of Antofagasta serve the Antofagasta area. Serving the area near the picturesque city of La Serena, the University of La Serena emphasizes engineering and mining.

Commerce and Industry

Natural resources have traditionally formed the base of Chile's economy and are crucial to its future development. In the past, Chile pursued an economic policy that favored mining activity and import substitution industrialization and did not adequately develop other sectors offering comparative advantages, such as forestry, fruits, and fishing. Inefficient industrial plants proliferated but growth was stunted and the country was highly dependent on copper exports. The present government, by contrast, has tried to promote development in areas of Chile's comparative advantage by avoiding distortional economic regulation. Current policy aims at insuring a competitive market economy directed by private sector decisions. The government has returned most of the commercial enterprises acquired under the previous leadership to private sector control; opened Chile's economy to world competition; and established conservative monetary policies.

The new economic scheme has resulted in important changes in production, investment, and trade. A tenfold increase in nontraditional exports, both agricultural and industrial, has lessened dependence on copper exports. As a result, copper as a percentage of total exports has declined from 80% in the early 1970s to less than 50% today, but it remains the principal export item. Other important exports are molybdenum, wood, fruit, fish, and industrial products.

Imports also have increased dramatically in response to the lowering of import duties to a uniform 10% tariff (except automobiles, which will not be lowered to 10% until 1986). Chile's major trading partners are the US, Japan, the Federal Republic of Germany, Brazil, and Argentina.

Transportation

Automobiles

The axis of the generally adequate road network is a hard-surfaced highway running from Arica to Puerto Montt. Many other roads, however, are narrow and unpaved. A good paved road connects central Chile with the Argentine border en route Mendoza, Argentina, and the Argentine highway system. It is frequently closed by snow in winter.

A personal car is essential for travel outside of Santiago. And, as in the US, a car is a must for shopping, social activities, and other errands. See Customs, Duties, and Passage for information on importing personal cars.

Repairs for most American and foreign cars can be made in Santiago, but spare parts are not always available and are expensive. Because many Chilean roads are rough or unpaved, heavy-duty springs, shock absorbers, and undercoating are recommended. Diplomatic and other personnel must pay a gasoline tax. Although winter temperatures in Santiago occasionally drop below freezing, antifreeze normally is not needed, except when traveling in mountain areas. Chains are required for winter travel in mountain areas. If you plan to ski in Chile bring tire chains with you. Chains are available in Chile but are very expensive.

Before shipping a vehicle, any accessories or parts that can be easily removed, such as radio, hubcaps, cigarette lighter, rearview mirror, ashtrays, and gear shift knob, should be packed in a carton and shipped with household

effects. Shipboard theft and pilferage are common; personnel should carry marine insurance for all shipments.

The Embassy obtains registration and license plates for personal cars. (See Taxes, Exchange, and Sale of Property.) Local liability insurance is required on all cars. Most Americans also purchase collision insurance, which is available locally as well as through US companies. Collision insurance rates are high, typically $500–$800 a year for the average American vehicle.

Employees must have a Chilean drivers license. A valid US license eliminates a road test, but an examination on traffic regulations and visual and hearing tests are required. An international drivers license is recognized in Chile; all personnel should obtain one before arrival.

Local

Santiago offers a comprehensive bus system with many new buses, but they are crowded during rush hours. The subway system is clean, cheap, and efficient, and recently was extended into the residential area of Las Condes. Many US Embassy employees use it for commuting. On workdays, the Embassy provides inexpensive door-to-door shuttle service.

Taxi service is fairly good and prices are reasonable. All taxis now have meters except tourist taxis at larger hotels, which charge a flat rate for certain trips. Taxis levy a surcharge after 9 pm and on Sundays. Public transportation can meet most transportation needs, but is not always dependable or comfortable.

Regional

Chile has a fairly extensive but old railway system. Rail and intercity services are available and used throughout the country, although at this time no rail passenger service operates north of Santiago. Most intercity buses are new and comfortable and follow fixed schedules. Sleeping cars are available on overnight trains and some long-distance buses feature sleeping berths.

Air service is well-developed and important to Chile's economy: Several domestic lines serve principal Chilean cities. The number of carriers operating between Chile and the US is increasing and three American airlines provide frequent service. American and foreign passenger ships and freighters call at Valparaiso.

Communications

Telephone and Telegraph

Telephone service is reasonably good, but private phones are difficult and, in some cases, impossible to obtain. Calls can be made to all parts of Chile, and international service is quite satisfactory. Special night and weekend rates are available. International telegraph service is good. Telephone and telegraph rates are higher than present US rates.

Mail and Pouch

International Mail. Adequate international mail service is available to and from Chile. Although the service tends to be faster than that of the APO facilities, it is more expensive and is not reliable for packages. The following address should be used for international mail:

Name
Name of Agency
American Embassy
Casilla 27-D
Santiago, Chile

Air Pouch Facilities. Santiago is a category A post, which excludes the use of diplomatic mail facilities for personal mail except for those items set forth in paragraphs 332.3-2 and 332.3-3 of 5 FAM. The APO facilities receive air pouches containing official mail three times a week and dispatch outgoing air pouches from Santiago to Washington six times a week. Official mail is distributed to Mission personnel through the Embassy mailroom. Use the following address for air pouch mail:

Name
Santiago
Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Surface Pouch Facilities. Because Santiago is a category A post, surface pouch facilities are available for official shipments only. Transit time for surface mail from the Department to Santiago is 8–10 weeks. Packages must measure no more than 24 inches in length and 62 inches length and girth combined, and weigh no more than 40 pounds. The following address applies for surface pouch mail:

Name
Santiago
Department of State
Washington, DC 20521

APO Facilities. The post has a full service incoming and outgoing APO. The APO is used for all personal letters and for parcels in the unrestricted category, which measure a maximum 100 inches length and girth combined and weigh no more than 70 pounds. Services available include insurance on outgoing parcels, special delivery on outgoing mail, certified mail, and return receipts. Services not available are money orders, packages, and registered mail.

The APO facility receives mail from Miami and dispatches it daily. The APO counter is open 8 am–6 pm on weekdays and 9 am–1 pm on Saturdays. APO mail should be addressed:

Name
American Embassy
APO Miami, FL 34033

Radio and TV

Chile's more than 180 radio stations (30 in Santiago) offer a wide variety of programs; radio is still Chile's most important mass communications medium. Almost all broadcasting is in Spanish. English-language news and features can be heard on shortwave via Voice of America (VOA), Armed Forces Radio, and the British Broadcasting Company (BBC). Santiago has "good music" stations and FM-stereo broadcasts.

Santiago has four TV channels. A national network and local TV also broadcast in various provinces. Chilean TV broadcasts are all in color, using the American national television system committee system, and include many US programs dubbed in Spanish. American standard TV sets operate in Chile with transformers.

Electronic equipment and spare parts are expensive in Chile. Reliable electricity makes battery sets unnecessary for home use. A good shortwave radio is useful.

Newspapers, Magazines, and Technical Journals

Because English-language books and magazines are scarce in Chile, bring books or subscribe to periodicals through the APO. The international editions of the *Miami Herald* and *New York Times* and *Time* and *Newsweek* are available locally at prices well above US levels. The Chilean information media operate entirely in Spanish.

Chile's National Library ranks as one of the largest in Latin America. In principal cities libraries at US- and UK-

sponsored binational centers carry English-language books and periodicals. The Embassy also maintains a small lending library of current books located in the commissary.

Health and Medicine

Medical Facilities

The Embassy's Health Unit maintains a limited supply of medications and first aid items for the treatment of on-the-job illnesses or injuries. The Unit is staffed by a registered nurse 3 days a week. The Health Unit offers a full range of services, including emergency treatment, immunizations, treatment of minor illnesses, transfer physicals, medical information and counseling, referral assistance, and monitoring of any medical problems.

A Chilean general practitioner, who is well oriented toward US medicine, serves as consultant to the Mission on specific health and medical problems. The regional medical officer (RMO), currently stationed in Lima, visits Santiago every 3 months for consultation and to insure that Embassy personnel receive proper medical care.

Inoculations normally received before departure from the US protect against ordinary health hazards in Santiago. On arrival employees and their dependents should bring their immunization records to the Health Unit for the nurse to review and note the due dates for boosters. The Health Unit provides a full range of immunization services, including oral polio vaccines, diphtheria, tetanus, typhoid fever, series vaccines required for small children, and gamma globulin. Post and the Department of State Health Units strongly recommend gamma globulin every 4 months to protect against infectious hepatitis. While in the US, employees and their dependents should obtain a yellow fever shot, which can be given only at approved vaccination centers. Required in some South American countries, the yellow fever immunization protects travelers in some tropical and subtropical areas.

Several local physicians have obtained medical training in the US and Europe. Well-trained, English-speaking dentists and orthodontists also are available. The cost of doctor visits or dental care is much higher than in the US. Several hospitals in Santiago provide a full range of medical services similar to those in US hospitals and use very modern, well-maintained equipment.

Most diseases or disorders can be treated in Santiago. When this is not possible, medical travel is authorized to Gorgas Army Hospital in Panama or any other US medical facility as required.

Many medical facilities provide emergency services 24 hours daily including ambulance transportation and a doctor on duty. Pharmacies rotate to stay open 24 hours, and some are open regularly 24 hours daily.

Bring an adequate supply of any long-term prescribed medication. The RMO can renew a prescription during a routine visit to post. Employees can order these medications by mail from a Washington pharmacy that specializes in sending drugs overseas.

Vitamins are expensive locally. Bring a good supply of supplementary multivitamins and vitamin C. For small children bring the chewable type with fluoride as city water is not fluoridated. Eyeglasses, including bifocals and contact lenses, and lens prescriptions can be obtained in Chile.

To protect your skin from the dry climate bring body lotions, moisturizing creams, and bath oils. Suntan preparations should be worn at the beaches and in skiing areas. Exposure to the sun should be limited to prevent severe burning, which can occur rapidly.

Community Health

Community health is generally good in Santiago and compares to that of other large Latin American cities. The sewage system and trash collection are efficient; no unusual pests or vermin problems exist. Water is purified and generally safe to drink, but many families prefer to boil their drinking water. Outside the larger cities, however, water usually is contaminated, and bottled water is recommended.

Food and beverages are generally safe. However, care is required in choosing restaurants and preparing raw fruits and vegetables. Milk, often reconstituted, is pasteurized, but distribution methods are poor. Boil fresh milk found on farms before drinking. Good quality, tasty powdered and liquid processed milk is available on the local market and at the Embassy commissary.

Preventive Measures

Respiratory ailments are prevalent. Chile's climate, with its sudden sharp temperature changes and heavy smog, and poorly heated houses contribute to the high incidence of respiratory illnesses. Sore throats and sinusitis are common. If you use an inhalator for severe sinus blockage, bring it.

Intestinal upsets (indigestion and diarrhea) are common among Americans. Newcomers especially are prone to attacks, though no one is immune. Mild disorders occur regardless of precautions taken. More serious infections such as bacillary dysentery, amoebic dysentery, and typhoid fever usually can be avoided. However, typhoid and hepatitis do occur. All personnel are urged to renew typhoid and gamma globulin shots on a regular basis, and to wash all salad ingredients, berries, and fruits in an appropriate solution. Local products include Bacilan, Zonalin, iodine tablets, and Clorox.

A pamphlet prepared by the Health Unit provides local medical information and preventive health measures and also lists local specialists, physicians, and dentists who speak English.

Employment for Spouses and Dependents

The US Mission occasionally hires a temporary secretary to fill in for a regular employee, usually for about 3 months. The applicant must be a spouse or dependent of a US Mission employee and a US citizen. Salary is commensurate with ability and experience. A few positions now are designated American Family Member (AFM) positions and may be filled by dependents.

Other types of work usually performed by spouses or dependents include managing the APO, commissary, or snackbar, and serving as the Community Liaison Office (CLO) representative.

A few private schools occasionally hire qualified teachers. Generally, applicants must hold a teaching degree from an accredited university. However, many language institutes in the city hire native English speakers, who do not have a degree or experience, to teach English.

The Embassy is in the process of formalizing an agreement with the Chilean Government that would allow holders of any type of visa to work in Chile. When this agreement is signed, spouses holding diplomatic visas who wish to work will be able to seek employment in the local economy or with American companies in Santiago.

The CLO maintains a list of spouses and dependents seeking employment. The CLO representative informs members of the US Mission of Embassy vacancies as they arise. Also, spouses may be able to obtain employment before their arrival at post with one of the international organizations that maintain offices in Santiago. These include:

Centro Latinoamerica de Demografia (CELADE)—Latin American Demographic Center, Alonso de Cordova 3107

Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), Avenida Dag Hammarskjold

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Avenida Providencia 871

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Pedro de Valdivia Norte 0193, Piso 11

Instituto Interamericano de Ciencias Agricolas (IICA)—Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Studies, Avenida Providencia 199, Piso 4

International Labor Office (ILO), Bandera 341

International Monetary Fund (IMF), Agustinas 1180, c/o Banco Central de Chile

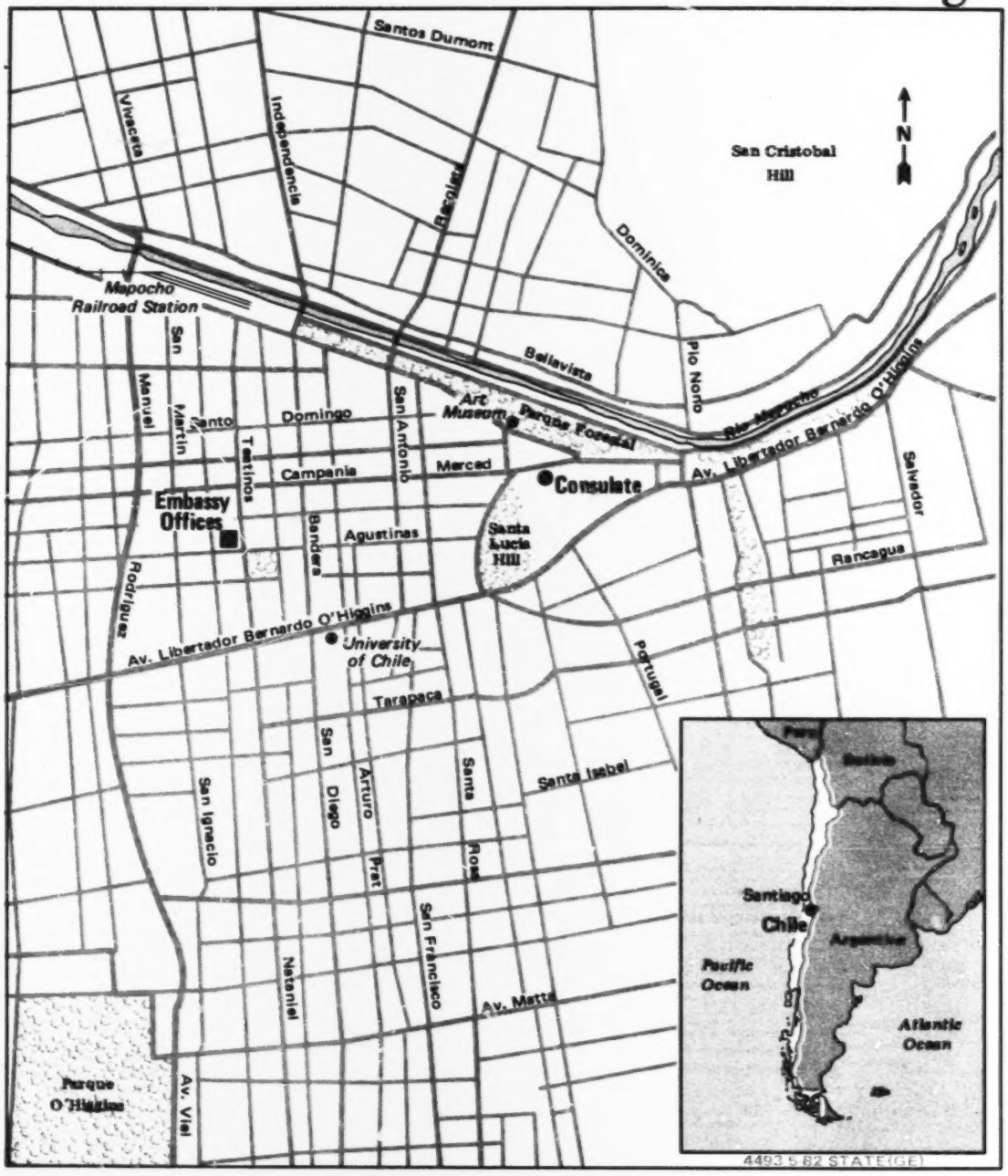
Organization of American States (OAS), Exequias Alliende 2385

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Huerfanos 786, Oficina 710

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Avenida Isidora Goyenechea 3322

All dependents who want employment should notify the CLO of their skills and preferences; every effort will be made to assist them.

Santiago


Santos Dumont
Vivaceta
Independencia
Recoleta
San Cristobal Hill
N
Dominica
Mapocho Railroad Station
San Manuel
Santo Domingo
Bellavista
Pio Nono
Art Museum
Parque Forestal
Rio Mapocho
Av. Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins
Salvador
San Antonio
Merced
Consulate
Campania
Testinos
Embassy Offices
Bandera
Agustinas
Santa Lucia Hill
Rancagua
Rodriguez
Av. Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins
University of Chile
Portugal
Tarapaca
San Diego
Arturo Prat
Santa Rosa
Santa Isabel
San Ignacio
San Francisco
Nataniel
Av. Matta
Parque O'Higgins
Av. Viel
Peru
Bolivia
Santiago
Chile
Argentina
Pacific Ocean
Atlantic Ocean
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American Embassy

Santiago

Founded in 1541 by Pedro de Valdivia, greater Santiago today is a modern city of more than 3 million inhabitants with few preindependence monuments. It is the cultural, political, financial, and commercial center of Chile. Santiago impresses foreigners as being more European than most Latin American cities—a reflection of its population characteristics and Chile's historical isolation from its neighbors.

The city lies at the eastern edge of the fertile central valley, and some of its residential areas reach into the Andean foothills. The Andean peaks, which are snow covered almost year round, usually are visible from the city's center. Situated roughly 70 miles from the Pacific, Santiago has an altitude of about 1,700 feet.

Greater Santiago covers 369 square miles, making it the fourth largest city in South America. Home to almost one-third of all Chileans, Santiago is also the center of government and Chilean cultural and economic life. Chile's standard of living, which ranks high in Latin America, is highest in Santiago, where most of the country's wealth is concentrated.

Chile's other large population centers—Valparaiso, Concepcion, and Antofagasta—have distinct personalities but are more provincial. Valparaiso has a long history and all the color and vitality of a seaport.

Almost all European nationalities are represented in Chile; several thousand displaced persons were resettled here after World War II. Major foreign colonies are German, Arab, British, Italian, and Yugoslav. The American colony numbers about 2,500; the English-speaking community, about 6,000.

The Post and Its Administration

In Santiago, employees and their dependents number about 150 and represent nine departments or agencies of the US Government: State, Commerce, International Communication Agency (USICA), Agriculture, Defense Attache Office, Inter-American Geodetic Survey (IAGS), Drug Enforcement

View of the central city from a park hilltop.

Administration (DEA), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and Peace Corps.

All agencies maintain their principal offices in Santiago, except NASA, which is in Colina. Peace Corps and USICA personnel assigned to a city outside Santiago should check with their respective agencies for information on living conditions.

USICA and all Embassy sections (except Consular) are in the CENADI building at Agustinas 1343 in downtown Santiago. The Consular Section is in the Chancery annex at Merced 230, about 13 blocks from the Embassy. The Peace Corps leases a building in the residential area for its offices. Telephone numbers for the various agencies are:

Embassy, service attaches, Commerce, USICA, DEA, and Agriculture	710133-721192
Peace Corps	2253639
IAGS	68221 ext. 202
NASA	81706

As the President's representative, the Ambassador is the Chief of Mission and responsible for the direction of all US agencies in Chile. The Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) assists the Ambassador and is in charge during the Ambassador's absence. The Embassy is divided into Political, Economic, Consular, and Administrative Sections.

The public affairs officer (PAO) is the chief officer of USICA, whose objective is to foster a better understanding of US policies and cultural achievements and to emphasize US-Chilean mutual interests. To achieve this objective, USICA uses all available communications media. It is divided into a cultural affairs section (educational exchange, book presentation, etc.), a press section, and an audiovisual (radio and TV) section. USICA also supports 16 binational centers, which operate under a cultural interchange agreement. In Santiago, the Instituto Chileno-Norteamericano offers extensive English and Spanish language courses and a program of lectures, films, concerts, and discussions, and recently added a bilingual secretarial course.

The Peace Corps is headed by a representative and administered by other staff members. Volunteers teach and work on a variety of technical projects. A Chilean contract physician treats Volunteers.

The Administrative Section provides a full range of support services—such as fiscal matters, personal services, travel assistance, requisitioning, customs clearance, and health services—to the Embassy, USICA, Commerce, Agriculture, and, to a lesser degree, the other agencies. Payroll and allowance payments for State, USICA, Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS), Commerce, and Peace Corps personnel are made by Washington Finance Center (WFC), Washington. Most employees allot their salaries to US banks; allotments are mailed via Department pouch after each payday. The Budget and Fiscal Office provides fiscal services for all personnel.

The CLO is also part of the Administrative Section and the basic objective of its representative is to help Mission employees and their dependents. CLO maintains a skills bank for spouses wishing to work and information on schools, shopping, maids, community activities, travel, and medical services. Persons assigned to Santiago are urged to write to the CLO with any questions before their arrival.

Hours for all agencies in the Chancery and Chancery annex are 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, with ½ hour for lunch. Lunch is available at nearby restaurants or at the Embassy snackbar, which serves breakfast, a hot lunch, and sandwiches throughout the day.

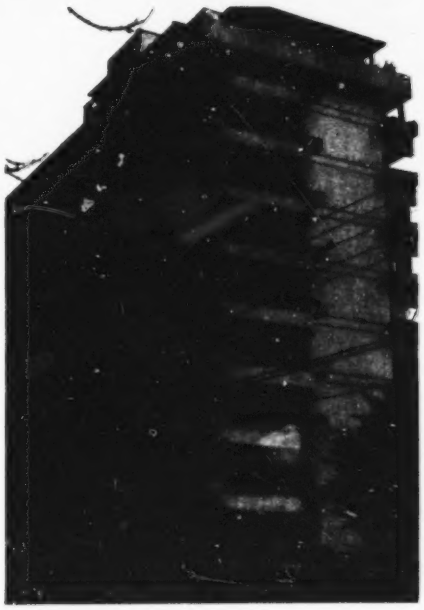
All agencies meet new arrivals traveling by air if arrangements are made in advance. If you are not met, call your agency. Those arriving at night or on weekends should call the Embassy; a Marine Guard is on duty after hours. Those arriving at Valparaiso by ship usually are met if the agency has been notified in advance. If you are not met, an agent of the shipping company will help you through customs and arrange for transportation to Santiago.

Housing

Temporary Quarters

The Embassy Commissary Association leases three apartments in the residential area to accommodate incoming and departing personnel. New arrivals may occupy the apartments for a maximum of 3 months, which usually is sufficient to locate permanent housing and receive household effects.

Each apartment has three bedrooms and two baths and is equipped with linens, blankets, and other basic housekeeping items. Daily maid service is provided. Occupants with pets must pay a pet security deposit of $50. This is refunded when the employee vacates the apartment, provided the pet has caused no damage.



The Embassy owns two staff apartments in this building.

An employee's agency can request room reservations as soon as exact arrival time is known. Employees with dependents have priority. If apartments are not available, new arrivals are lodged in hotels, some of which have cooking facilities.

Reservations for personnel on temporary duty are made at moderately priced hotels around Santiago where rates are within the per diem rate. Hotel rates in Santiago have increased enormously in the last few years.

Permanent Housing

The US Government owns and furnishes the residences of the Ambassador, the DCM, the agricultural attache, the Defense attache, senior counselors, and eight apartments for staff members. It leases residences for the PAO, the NASA director, the Marine Security Guards, the commercial counselor, DEA (two houses), and the noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC). The residences of the Marine Guard, NCOIC, and PAO are government furnished. The Embassy provides furnishings to most, but not

all, officers and staff personnel and provides all employees with a range, refrigerator, freezer, washer, dryer, vacuum cleaner, floor polisher, and a limited number of transformers.

Houses and apartments are available for rent. However, because rents are high and rising dramatically, most employees are out of pocket for a number of months until allowances are increased to reflect the higher rents.

Most newly constructed apartment buildings and many private homes feature central heating, which should be a major requisite in locating housing. Most houses and apartments have three bedrooms plus a room and bath for a servant. Fireplaces are common and useful year round against the evening chill.

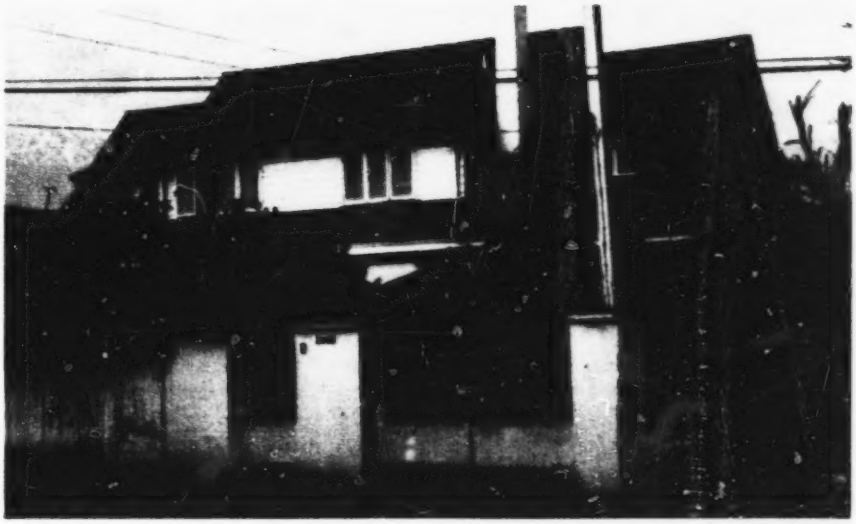
Embassy housing files will assist newcomers in finding suitable quarters. The classified section of newspapers and rental agencies also are helpful. If a rental agency finds your house, the usual commission is one-third of the first month's rent, which is reimbursable through the transfer allowance. Although contracts vary considerably, leases generally are signed for at least 2 years. The Administrative Section provides a sample contract. Security will check the residence and install necessary locks.

The tenant must repair any damage to the house or its equipment that occurs during his or her occupancy. A deposit of 1 month's rent guarantees compliance with this obligation. This security deposit must be paid by the employee and will be returned according to the contract. Some landlords agree to waive the security deposit requirement in return for advance rent; i.e., making rental payments up to 1 year in advance instead of monthly.

All electric, heating, and other installations should be checked thoroughly before signing a lease. Electrical wiring and current must be adequate for American appliances such as clothes washers.

Furnishings

As of this printing, the post provides a complete set of furniture to some, but not all, Mission employees. Contact the post to determine whether you will receive government furniture. All employees are issued appliances, as stated under Permanent Housing. The Peace Corps staff receives government furnishings for privately leased quarters.



Above and below, senior officer housing.

Privately furnished houses and apartments can be rented, but in most cases furnishings are inadequate. Employees who are shipping household effects should bring furniture suitable for a temperate climate. Lawn furniture is useful for the many houses and apartments with patios; wicker, cane, and wrought iron furniture can be purchased locally. Most houses and apartments have separate dining rooms. Eat-in kitchens are sometimes found in houses, but rarely in apartments. Barbecue grills are useful; charcoal is available.

Bring all kinds of lamps; adapters for prong-type plugs are available locally. Some houses and apartments are not equipped with light fixtures, but these can be purchased locally (although expensive) or ordered through the APO. Employees are expected to provide locally available cots, mattresses, and bed linens for household help. Freestanding metal closets for storage are useful, especially for large families, as some residences do not have adequate closets.

Good-quality yard goods for slipcovers and draperies and specially treated upholstery fabrics are expensive and not always available, but can be ordered from the US after arrival. Bring any drapes and curtains you have and obtain others through mail-order catalogs. Bring rugs, blankets, bed linens, mattresses and covers, shower curtains and rings, and all kitchen utensils. The commissary loans dishes and glassware for entertaining purposes. If you plan to rent a house, bring any fireplace equipment you have, a hand-operated lawnmower, gardening tools, hoses, and sprinklers. Government-owned homes, however, are furnished with these items, as well as draperies.

Utilities and Equipment

Current in Chile is 220v, 50-cycle, single-phase, 2-wire, AC. Electrical appliances—mainly smaller models—are manufactured locally, but quality is poor and prices are high. Since electricity costs more than gas, and large appliances frequently overload electrical systems, electric stoves, heaters, or clothes dryers are not recommended. Space heaters that use bottled gas or kerosene are available locally. All 110v appliances will operate with stepdown transformers; employees who plan to buy new appliances, however, should purchase 220v, 50-cycle models.

Record players, tape recorders, and other 60-cycle items can be converted to 50 cycles. Include conversion kits in your freight. Electric clocks (60-cycle) cannot be converted to 50 cycles and will not function properly.

US microwave ovens and TV sets can be used with transformers. Freezers are convenient to store seasonally available foods. Air-conditioners are not necessary, but electric fans may be useful for bedrooms.

Food

Fresh fruits and vegetables are varied, of high quality, and readily available. Winter supplies are more limited but selection is still good. Fish and seafood from the vast Chilean coastline include many interesting, little-known varieties about which many Americans have become quite enthusiastic. Fruits and vegetables, as well as fish, chicken, general delicatessen products, cleaning supplies, and flowers, are available at the street markets and in centrally located, covered markets in Santiago.

Some of the pasteurized milk in supermarkets is natural milk, and some is reconstituted and low in butterfat. Condensed, evaporated, or powdered milk manufactured locally is good quality and reasonably priced. A limited variety of local cheese is available, plus many kinds of imported cheeses. Other dairy products include yogurt, margarine, butter, sour cream, pot cheese, and ice cream. Local brands of cereals, cake mixes, and acceptable baby formula powders and strained foods are available. All food items in Chile are more expensive than in the US.

Chile is famous for its excellent wines, which are inexpensive. Beer and soft drinks are available.

Located in the basement of the Chancery annex, the commissary carries alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, tobacco, cigars, detergents, household cleaning supplies, aluminum foil, paper products, feminine hygiene products, a few toilet articles, cooking oil, Crisco, spices, brown sugar, bitter chocolate, cake mixes, powdered milk, cereals, fruit juices, soups, canned vegetables, Jello, Pampers, and a limited supply of baby food. Families with infants should plan to bring or ship formula. The commissary does not stock diet foods, film, or cosmetics.

Although the commissary meets many of the American community's needs, it cannot stock a large variety of every item. Occasional stock depletions occur due to shipping and customs clearance delays. Bring any essential items with you, especially if you feel strongly about a particular brand of food or toiletry. The commissary can place individual orders for items not stocked. Membership deposits—$100 per family and $40 for singles—are returned at the end of tours. Most commissary prices are higher than in the US because of high shipping costs; liquor and cigarettes are less expensive.

The Commissary Association also maintains three transit apartments and two vehicles which Mission employees may rent. Members may borrow from the commissary's large stock of card tables and chairs as well as glassware and dishes.

Clothing

Located in the Temperate Zone, Santiago has four seasons. Clothing needs for this climate are the same as in San Francisco. Winter is long but generally mild. June through September rainfall may be heavy but rarely freezes. During these months poorly heated homes often become damp and chilly, requiring heavier indoor clothing. Bring raincoats, umbrellas, and boots from the US. Spring and autumn are sunny and mild with some rain.

Almost no rain occurs during Santiago's warm, sunny, and dry summer (December through March). Houses usually remain cool and pleasant. The temperature drops at sundown, and cool summer evenings usually require a light wrap.

Chileans dress stylishly. Although readymade clothes are available, large sizes are not as common as smaller ones. Chile manufactures lovely leather shoes, but, compared with US-manufactured footwear, the choice of lasts is smaller and most readymade shoes are made in only one width for each length. Long and narrow widths are not available. In Santiago children's shoes are much more expensive than in the US and not always satisfactory.

Quality and workmanship among Santiago's seamstresses and tailors vary, but most personnel have been pleased with their work. Although expensive, good men's suits can be made from the woolens, cottons, and synthetics available; a wider variety of material is available for women's wear. Bring sewing needs; e.g. interfacings, special trimmings, extra sewing machine needles, and patterns. The selection of threads, buttons, and zippers is limited. A sewing machine is useful, but the motor should be 50/60 cycles. Drycleaning is adequate but expensive.

Men. Men wear business suits for office and social functions. Sport coats and slacks also are acceptable for office wear. A dark suit is appropriate for almost all evening occasions. For year-round wear medium-weight wool blend suits are most practical, though some men prefer a heavier fabric for winter and wash-and-wear suits for summer. A raincoat is necessary, preferably washable with zip lining. Bring a raincoat that will remain water-repellant without special treatment, because

few drycleaners offer this service. A topcoat may be useful; hats are a matter of personal preference.

Chile's four seasons require a variety of sportswear. Flannel or wool shirts and sweaters are comfortable for winter. Attractive wool and synthetic knit shirts and sweaters are available. Bring swim trunks, sport slacks, golf shoes, tennis apparel, etc. Good quality cotton knit underwear and socks are available but expensive.

Formal attire is rarely if ever used in Chile. Even for the usual official or diplomatic functions, a dark business suit is appropriate. Anyone who already owns formal attire, however, should bring it.

Women. Knits are quite fashionable and readily available. Leather jackets and coats and bags and shoes are always popular but quite expensive. Chilean women tend to dress more formally than American women.

A basic wardrobe of multipurpose clothing is more practical than many clothes of limited use. Suits, wool dresses, knits, and two- and three-piece combinations of wool and wool synthetic blends are popular for office, street, or daytime functions from April through October. Houses are usually damp and chilly during this period, and warm clothing is needed. Skirts, blouses, and sweaters often are worn for office and informal meetings as well as at home.

In the summer and occasionally in spring and autumn women wear cotton, linen, and synthetic fabrics. Cool evenings usually require a light wrap. Stoles and blazers, as well as sweaters or sweatercoats, are worn often.

Bring short dresses of silk, wool, etc. for dinner and cocktail parties. Very "dressy" dresses are not in fashion; simplicity and line are more important. Chilean women favor short dresses for evening wear.

Chilean and American women seldom wear hats. Gloves are worn but are only necessary in winter. Stockings are not available in long sizes and are not good quality; bring an adequate supply.

Bring all necessary sports clothes: bathing suits and caps, golf shoes, and ski and tennis clothes. Some lingerie is available. A long warm robe is useful.

Children. Overalls, jeans, knit and flannel shirts, flannel-lined garments, and sweaters are indispensable for young children in winter. Washable, waterproof, light-weight snowsuits or medium-weight overcoats with leggings are essential for outdoors. Medium-weight ski jackets are used a great deal. Boots are recommended. Bring sweaters that are easily washed. Locally available items, cotton knit underwear and socks in particular, are often poor quality and expensive, and useful only to supplement existing clothing supplies. Bring light-weight or medium-weight cotton thermal or knit long-sleeved pajamas for all children. Bring a good supply of shoes, for school and play, including tennis shoes and sandals. Find a source familiar with your children's sizes and feet to send shoes as needed.

Children here often wear ponchos with hoods or some type of head covering. These are attractive and can be purchased locally. Satisfactory cotton knit and synthetic shorts and shirts are available for summer but may require special care compared with similar US garments. This is also true of some of the available highly styled children's clothes.

For small children, bring diapers, bottles, extra nipples, plastic pants, car beds, cribs, stroller, etc. All are expensive locally.

Most school children must wear uniforms. Younger children sometimes wear coveralls or smocks over their uniforms—these may be purchased locally. Boys uniforms consist of medium to dark gray trousers, white shirts, and navy blue cardigans or V-necked sweaters with navy socks and black shoes. A special medium blue blazer may be purchased here or through some mail-order stores. The other items should be bought in the US. In winter boys may wear a navy blue peajacket or ski jacket.

Girls wear navy blue jumpers that must be purchased or made here in a specified style. However, white blouses, long- or short-sleeved, navy blue cardigans, navy knee socks, and black shoes all should be purchased in the US. A car coat, ski jacket, or navy blue peacoat also is recommended. Bring warm gloves.

Note: Parents considering Nido de Aguilas school should consult the school before making purchases, as at this time uniforms are not required for children in grades 7–12. But, this exception only applies to Nido.

Supplies and Services

Supplies

Well-known brands of American and international toiletries are sold at high prices. Also, the commissary stocks a limited selection of toilet articles and nonprescription drugs. Bring an initial supply of special medicines; cosmetics, including products for dry skin; and personal grooming aids; and arrange with a store to supply future needs. The Embassy's Administrative Section has a small selection of essential medicines available to all personnel. Medicines can be shipped via air pouch.

Bring basic household supplies and gadgets useful for setting up housekeeping. Plastic items and kitchen gadgets and utensils sometimes are available to supplement existing supplies. A quarter-inch drill with concrete and carbide bits, with fiber plugs and screws, is useful for hanging pictures. For minor household repairs, a basic tool set including hammer, insulated screwdriver, and large pliers or wrench, is useful. Other items to bring (available locally but expensive) include stationery, crayons, children's toys, greeting cards, gift wrap, and ribbon. Include sheets, blankets, washable bedspreads, pillows, and towels in household effects.

A good encyclopedia is useful for school children. Books are available, but the supply is sporadic. A few bookstores and newsstands carry English-language reading material, but prices are at least double that of the US. Nido de Aguilas school, the Embassy subscription library, the binational center, and a few churches offer lending library facilities for adults and children.

Basic Services

Tailoring and dressmaking services are available. Laundry service and drycleaning are adequate, but slow and expensive.

Service at beauty salons, which includes care of wigs, is good and similar to that in the US. Barbershops offer good service for standard prices.

For plumbing, electrical, and general repair work, service is generally slow and prices vary.

The Commissary Association rents a Toyota sedan and a van to members for a nominal charge. Incoming and departing personnel have priority, and an employee's sponsor can reserve a vehicle when an exact arrival time is known.

Simple car repairs and services are readily obtained. But include basic items such as belts, gaskets, filters, and windshield wipers in household effects, because spare parts are scarce and expensive.

Domestic Help

Most people employ a maid. Live-in maids are available, but are often difficult to find and expensive. The personnel section and the Community Liaison Office try to keep a list of available servants.

Day help is readily available. Heavy work, such as washing windows and shutters and waxing the parquet floors found in many houses usually is done by men, called "mozos," who work weekly or biweekly. Gardeners are readily available, but usually are not well trained. Daytime workers expect a light breakfast, a substantial, hot, noon meal, and perhaps tea and a sandwich around 5 pm.

The employer pays monthly salaries and social security benefits and taxes amounting to 17% of each month's salary for all live-in maids as well as day maids who work for only one employer. Room, board, and uniforms are provided for live-in help.

Religious Activities

Chile is a predominantly Catholic country. Numerous churches are located throughout Santiago.

For the English-speaking community the Community Church offers English Protestant services, and the Maryknoll House provides a Roman Catholic Mass in English. Other locations in the city serve members of the Christian Science, Jewish, Greek Orthodox, and Seventh-Day Adventist faiths. Most Mormon churches perform services in Spanish.

For children the Community Church holds Sunday school and through the International School, Catholic religious instruction is available.

Education

Dependent Education

Chile has an established public school system, supplemented by numerous private schools, for students in nursery through high school. The school year extends from March to mid-December with a vacation of 2 weeks in July and 1 week in September. Most schools require uniforms (see Clothing).

Teatro Municipal in downtown Santiago.

Most American children attend Nido de Aguilas International School, where the curriculum, textbooks, and methods are oriented to US schools. Several other schools offer an opportunity to study in English on a more limited basis, but Nido is the only school in Santiago with an English-language high school. French, Italian, and German schools teach in their respective languages in the lower grades. Those interested in a local school other than Nido de Aguilas may write to the post to inquire. Although tuition and associated expenses at Nido determine "at post" education allowances, parents who select another school in Santiago still receive the allowance. Students in grades 9–12 may receive an "away from post" education allowance to attend a US boarding school.

Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in the US and by the Chilean Ministry of Education, Nido de Aguilas International School (Casilla 16.211, Santiago 9) is a coeducational N–12 school for students from Chile, the US, and other countries. At Nido instruction is in English, using a US-based curriculum. The student-teacher ratio is 15 to 1.

The school is multinational, multicultural, and nonsectarian—the only school of its kind in Chile. The headmaster is a US citizen, as are one-third of the teachers.

The elementary grades offer an individually guided program based on language arts, social studies, math, science, music, and art. The secondary school prepares the student to meet the admission requirements of both US and Latin American universities. Elective programs and special tutorial type courses help to accommodate the varied educational backgrounds and needs of international students.

The guidance and counseling program assists students in adjusting to a new post and perhaps a new language. College and career counseling for Chilean and international students is a regular part of the program. The standardized testing program to measure achievement annually includes the Iowa Test of Basic Skills and Achievement for grades 3–9, the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) for grades 10 and 11, and the College Board Scholastic Aptitude Test and National Merit Scholarship Test. The high school is a member of the National Honor Society. Junior and senior

high school students can participate in Nido's active sports program and numerous extracurricular activities.

Special Educational Opportunities

Excellent Spanish courses for adults are available privately, through the Embassy for authorized personnel, and at the Chilean-North American Institute. The Chilean-North American Institute provides special study opportunities and many cultural activities, such as lectures on Chilean history and culture and exhibits on Chilean art.

The Institute's library features facilities in both English and Spanish. Courses in painting, ceramics, ballet, guitar, folk singing and dancing, and other cultural subjects are offered at institutes in the residential areas. French language courses are available at the Alliance Francaise, and German is taught at the Goethe Institute.

Admission for Mission personnel to Santiago universities is difficult due to limited classroom facilities. In addition, US colleges and universities do not always recognize credits from these universities. The Cultural Affairs Office can advise you.

Post Orientation Program

Periodic US orientations are held at post for all personnel and adult dependents. Representatives from all sections and agencies of the Mission discuss their basic objectives and the integration of their work with the rest of the Mission in carrying out US policy in Chile.

The post also operates a system of administrative check-in (orientation and introductions to Mission personnel). Orientation literature provided to all new personnel outlines the post's policy regulations, standards, and procedures. A supplemental Welcome Kit, provided by the Community Liaison Office, contains useful information on living in Chile.

Recreation and Social Life

Sports

Chile offers a wonderful variety of tourist and sports attractions throughout the year. Sports fans will find opportunities to enjoy many recreations.

Numerous public tennis courts, one of which features the first squash/racquet ball courts in Chile, opened recently. Several public swimming pools open during the summer. Private country clubs offer tennis, swimming, golf, and polo, but membership fees are usually prohibitive to Mission employees.

Skiing ranks as the outstanding sports attraction in Chile, where some of the finest skiing centers in the hemisphere are located. The skiing season extends from June through October and occasionally into November. The most popular ski areas—Portillo (site of international championship competitions), Farellones, Colorado, and La Parva—offer slopes for every skill level. Lift tickets are higher priced than at most US resorts. Hotel rooms are expensive and reservations for July and August must be made several months in advance. The slopes are never as crowded as those in the US.

Horseback riding is a year-round activity in Santiago, where several academies and riding clubs rent horses and provide instruction, if desired. Horse shows are held frequently during the winter.

Fishing and hunting are popular, but Chile has no large game. Heavy caliber or .22-caliber rifles may only be used in the Punta Arenas area, in the extreme southern part of Chile. Most hunters use 12-gage shotguns with No. 8 shot. Mission personnel are permitted to import only 1,000 rounds of ammunition, but it is available here. Partridge, quail, duck, puma, and fox are hunted throughout Chile.

Chile offers superb trout fishing during October through mid-April. Deep sea fishing (broadbill, swordfish, and marlin) and surf casting also are popular. Heavy tackle (20–25 pounds) is recommended; bring it with you. Ideal fishing spots are 3 hours to a day away by car or train or about 3 hours by plane from Santiago.

Many water sports are popular throughout Chile, for example, water skiing and boating on the lakes in southern Chile. In some of the coastal cities, motorboats are available for rent and along the coast several private yacht clubs are located for those who wish to purchase their own boats. Because of the Humboldt Current, the ocean is quite cold. Wet suits are required for scuba diving.

Sports clothes and equipment are expensive here; bring adequate supplies with you or plan to order from the US.

Touring and Outdoor Activities

Beaches are located within a 2–4-hour drive from Santiago. Some, however, are small, rocky, and dangerous because of strong undertows and lack of lifeguards. Because of the cold water, sunbathing, at least for adults, is more popular than swimming at most beaches. Hotel accommodations are adequate during summer.

Chile's largest summer resort, Vina del Mar, offers good hotels, a municipal gambling casino and nightclub, golf and tennis facilities, a racetrack, and public beaches. Other fine beaches, located both south and north of Vina, often lack the accommodations and facilities of the more popular resorts, but are far less crowded. However, all Chilean hotels are more expensive than comparable US facilities, especially in January and February.

Other popular summer resorts are found in the lake region, about 500 miles south of Santiago. Known as the "Switzerland of South America," this area offers excellent trout fishing and some of the most magnificent scenery on the continent. Limited hotels require advance reservations.

Other summer activities include boat trips through the channels and fiords of the south, from Puerto Montt to Punta Arenas on the Straits of Magellan at the tip of the continent, and the excursion to the Juan Fernandez Islands, 400 miles from Valparaiso in the Pacific.

In Chile's extreme north (1,300 miles from Santiago, 2 hours and 40 minutes by jet), Arica features year-round spring weather, making it a popular spot in winter. All the major northern seacoast cities—La Serena, Antofagasta, Iquique, and Arica—have a mild climate, sandy beaches, and sunshine most of the year.

Opportunities for mountain climbing, hiking, and camping abound. Camping facilities vary widely, but most provide baths and hot showers. As the hotel prices soar, camping's popularity, too, has risen. Campsites are crowded during January and February, but usually empty the rest of the summer. Bring camping supplies with you.

Buenos Aires (700 miles from Santiago), Montevideo, and Brazil are favorite tourist attractions. From Lima, which is only 3¼ hours away by jet, you can visit the Inca cities of Cuz-

co and Machu Picchu. Mendoza, Argentina, is only 40 minutes away by jet.

Developing and printing for black-and-white film are acceptable. Some types of color film can be processed locally; others must be sent to the US. Bring a supply of film.

Entertainment

In Santiago, the arts are expanding every year. The lovely Teatro Municipal is the center of an opera season, two ballet seasons, and two symphony orchestras that offer weekly concerts during the winter. Chamber music and choral groups perform frequently. Although prices have risen, more economical season tickets are available.

Theater plays an active role in Santiago's cultural life. Several theaters present a variety of dramatic and satirical plays in Spanish throughout the year. The English-language theater group, Santiago Stage, offers three or four productions a year.

The numerous movie theaters in the city and suburbs are good and inexpensive. All films are subject to censorship, with minimum age limits set for each. Foreign films, which include many American films, are shown in their original language with Spanish subtitles.

Santiago has a few good but expensive nightclubs and discotheques. Most nightclubs are open only on weekends. Chileans prefer entertaining in their own homes and seldom patronize clubs.

Social Activities

Among Americans. Membership in the American Association of Chile is open to all American women in Chile. Monthly meetings, usually a lunch or tea, provide a good opportunity to meet other American women. This Association sponsors a variety of activities, such as tennis, bowling, bridge, gourmet and sewing groups, and contributes to several charities.

The American Government Association (AGA) welcomes all Mission employees and their spouses. Monthly activities include field trips, fundraising activities, and cultural events. The AGA sponsors a home for young girls, providing daily needs as well as parties during the year. Newcomers are a special concern to the AGA.

International Contacts. The Rotary and the Lions Club have local chapters. The US Chamber of Commerce has an office in Santiago. Located near the Embassy both the YWCA and the YMCA offer well-equipped facilities and sports and cultural programs.

Official Functions

Nature of Functions

Frequent official functions consist of the customary receptions, lunches, and dinners. Informal, at-home entertaining is common among Chileans and US and other foreign nationals.

Organizations for diplomats at all levels promote contact—through programs, lunches, and social events—within the functional areas, for example, a club for economic and commercial officers, one for consular officers, and a "Circulo Diplomatico" for junior and middle-level officers. A women's group, "Damas Diplomaticas," meets monthly and sponsors a home for retarded children through fundraising.

Standards of Social Conduct

All officers and staff employees are presented to the Ambassador and DCM soon after arrival. Members of the diplomatic corps are announced to the Foreign Ministry and to the diplomatic missions by Embassy note. Officers whose duties require calling on officials outside the Mission should bring a small supply of cards. Spanish-language cards printed locally are more useful for other purposes. Bring informal cards with envelopes for invitations, acknowledgments, and other notes.

Notes For Travelers

Getting to the Post

Remember that the seasons are reversed in Chile, so include suitable clothing in baggage and airfreight. Allow for shipping time in planning clothing requirements and ship airfreight as far in advance of departure (at least 2 weeks) as possible so that it will arrive before you do. Surface freight and household effects take 6 weeks–2½ months.

For those traveling directly to post by air, a 24-hour rest stopover is authorized if the scheduled flight is 14 hours or more. Panama or Lima are convenient stopover points.

Employees and dependents will each need about 6 small (1½" × 2") photographs for identification cards, etc. Passport-sized photos are not acceptable. All personnel receive special identity cards, issued by the Foreign Office, according to their position. You can obtain identity card photos at post quickly and inexpensively.

Military personnel should write to their appropriate section for information about their assignment to Chile.

Customs, Duties, and Passage

Customs and Duties

A valid Chilean visa is required for entry. Those with diplomatic or official passports should obtain diplomatic or official entry visas through the Department of State. Those with regular passports (Fulbright grantees, Peace Corps Volunteers, etc.) should enter on a tourist card, since Chilean consular and diplomatic offices abroad will not grant diplomatic or official visas to holders of regular passports. However, visas can be obtained after arrival by special arrangement between the Embassy and the Chilean Foreign Office.

State and USICA personnel, agricultural, and service attaches with diplomatic or consular titles have free-entry privileges. In addition, all personnel of NASA, IAGS, Peace Corps, and DEA have free-entry privileges through an agreement with the Chilean Government.

After the employee has arrived the Embassy clears through customs both unaccompanied air baggage and surface shipments of household effects.

Do not send packages to Chile through international parcel post: They are subject to long delays in customs and to duties and taxes that must be paid by persons without continuing free-entry privileges.

Diplomatically accredited personnel are entitled to duty-free import of their household effects and personally owned vehicle up to a total value of US$35,000. These items must be brought into the country within 1 year after the employee is accredited to the Chilean Government. Also, diplomatic personnel are entitled to import duty free up to US$5,000 worth of personal effects during each successive year of their tour. Staff personnel are entitled to duty-free entry of their household effects and personal vehicle up to a total value of US$20,000 during their first year in Chile. After being in Chile for 1 year, staff personnel cannot import any additional effects or vehicle.

Diplomatically accredited personnel can import a second car after the first one has been in the country more than 2 years. Personnel can hold or dispose of the first car free of duty after 3 years in the country. The second car is not charged against the employee's quota. The following restrictions apply to the importation of vehicles:

- Permission must be granted by the post before importing a vehicle. When requesting such permission provide make, model, and year of vehicle to be imported.
- Avoid garish paint or seat covers, deluxe hubcaps or wheels, excessive ornaments, spotlights, extra outside lights, ornamental radio antennas, and novelty or unusual sounding horns. Standard equipment, such as automatic transmission, power brakes, power steering, or air-conditioning, is acceptable.

New cars made in other countries may be imported duty free, but servicing and dealers' fees are rapidly offsetting any savings. Locally assembled cars can no longer be purchased tax free.

Passage

If you want to drive to Santiago from a nearby post, provide the Embassy with the following information well in advance of arrival:

- Make, year, model, number of doors, color, serial number, and license number of car.
- Names, ages, and passport numbers of driver and passengers.
- Date of expected entry into Chile and border crossing point.
- Number of trip ticket or "passage en douane" if you have such a document.

When the Embassy receives this information, it will forward a note to the Foreign Ministry requesting entry approval. Following approval, and after you arrive in Chile and have been accredited, the Embassy will obtain a free-entry decree for the car.

Pets

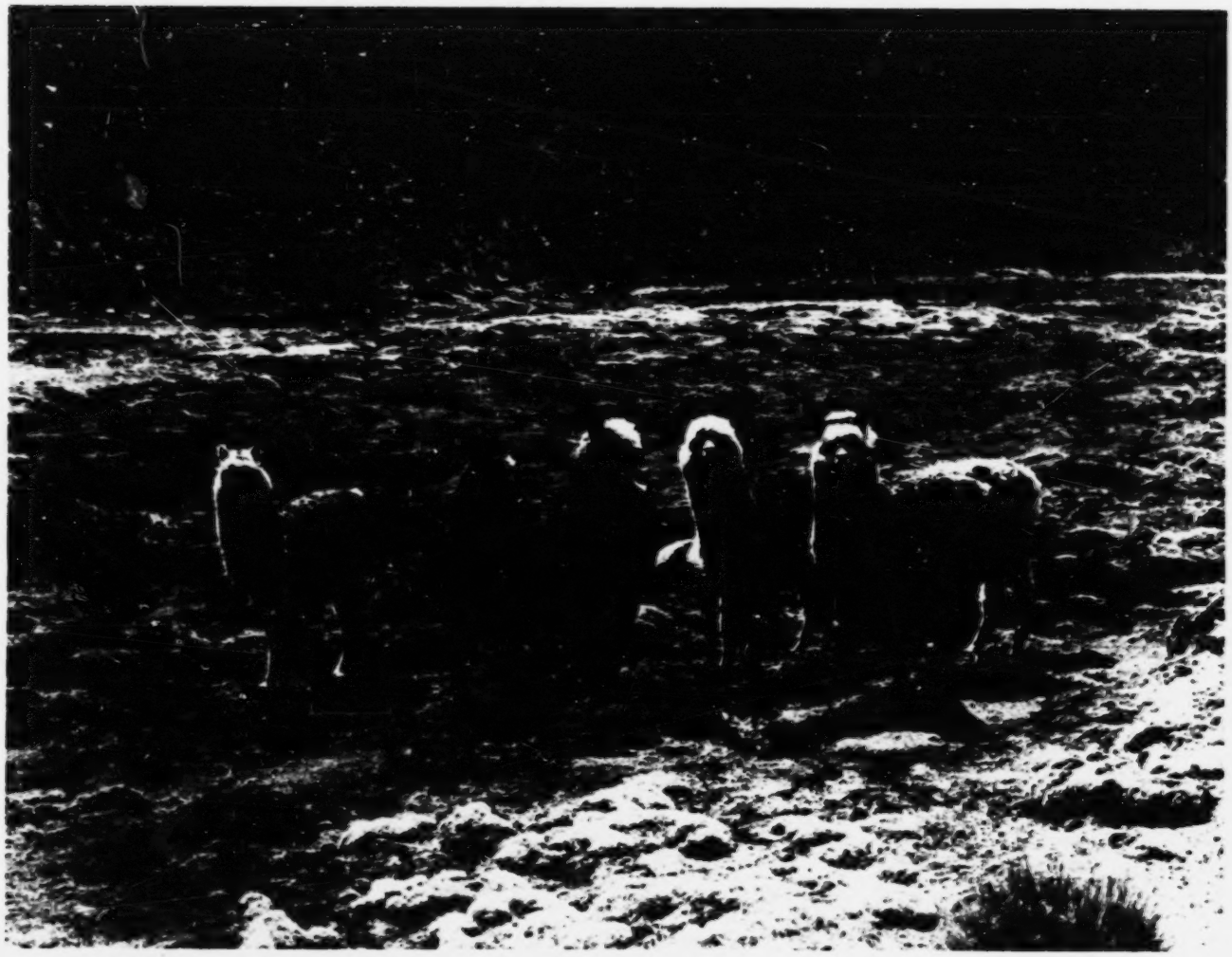
Importation of household pets must be approved by the "Direccion de Sanidad Animal." Approval usually is granted if pets are healthy, have a sanitary certificate, and have had the usual vaccinations. Tell your administrative officer your pet's breed, sex, and weight, and the Embassy will obtain a free-entry decree.

Firearms and Ammunition

Only the following nonautomatic firearms may be brought into Chile:

Pistols and revolvers	.22 (short, long, long rifle), .32 or .38 cal.
Shotguns	410 ga., 16 ga., 12 ga., sport style

Ammunition for the above firearms is not to exceed 1,000 rounds.



Grazing llamas in the altiplano of northern Santiago.

Firearms may be included in household effects, but the packing list must give a full description and the serial number of each firearm and quantity of ammunition. Do not include firearms in airfreight shipments.

Because these restrictions are subject to change, personnel shipping firearms to Chile should inform the Embassy before packing and shipping.

Currency, Banking, and Weights and Measures

Chile's official currency unit is the peso (written $). The rate of exchange is 39 pesos = US$1.

Chile has US banking facilities and uses the metric system of weights and measures. Agricultural land is measured in hectares (1 hectare = 10,000 square meters or 2.471 acres).

Taxes, Exchange, and Sale of Property

Restrictions

Official US Government personnel do not pay Chilean income taxes but do pay taxes on hotel rooms, meals, plane tickets, gasoline, utilities, telephone, theater tickets, etc. These taxes usually are included in quoted prices and rates.

No fee is charged for CD (diplomatic), OI (international organization), or AT (administrative-technical) license plates, which are valid for the duration of your assignment.

Drivers licenses, as well as hunting and fishing permits, are reasonably priced. Local public liability insurance on personal vehicles is required and available at reasonable cost.

Tolls of about $4 each are collected at several points for passenger cars traveling the Pan American Highway and the highway between Santiago and Valparaiso.

All sales of personal property, including cars, must be approved in advance by the Mission's sales import committee, which is appointed by the Ambassador. Taxes on all items, including cars that were imported duty free, must be paid when items are resold. New arrivals receive the Embassy's circular instruction outlining restrictions on duty-free importation and sale of personal property.

Pesos received from the sale of cars and personal property can be converted to dollars through the Embassy only when the employee is transferred or the car is sold for replacement purposes. In the latter case the vehicle to be sold must have been in the country for 2 years and the sale must be for re-

placement purposes. The Chilean Government, at this time, does not allow administrative and technical staff to import a replacement vehicle during a second tour.

Facilities

The Embassy cashier accepts personal checks to purchase Chilean pesos as well as a limited supply of US currency for travel outside the country. Personnel may establish a peso checking account at local banks. US travelers checks are available.

Recommended Reading

These titles are provided as a general indication of the material published on this country. The Department of State does not endorse unofficial publications.

American University. *Area Handbook for Chile.* US Government Printing Office: Washington, DC, 1969.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, US House of Representatives. *United States and Chile During the Allende Years, 1970–73.* US Government Printing Office: Washington. DC, 1975.

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De Pineda y Bascunan, Francisco Nunez. *The Happy Captive.* (English translation by William C. Atkinson) The Folio Society: London, 1977.

Falcoff, Mark. *Allende's Chile: A Critical History.* (To be published soon)

Mamalakis, Markos. *The Growth and Structure of the Chilean Economy.* Yale University Press: New Haven, 1976.

Meehan, John. *With Darwin in Chile.* (Spanish translation, *Con Darwin en Chile*) Frederick Muller, Ltd.: London, 1967.

Moran, Theodore H. *Multinational Corporation and the Politics of Dependence: Copper in Chile.* Princeton University Press: Princeton, 1974.

Sigmund, Paul. *The Overthrow of Allende and the Politics of Chile 1964-1976.* University of Pittsburgh Press: Pittsburgh, 1978.

Subercaseaux, Benjamin. *Chile, A Geographic Extravaganza.* Macmillan Publishing Co.: New York, 1943.

University of Chile, Institute of International Studies. *Chile: The Balanced View.* University of Chile: Santiago, 1975.

Valenzuela, J.S. and A., eds. *Chile: Politics and Society.* Transaction Books: New Brunswick, 1976.

Local Holidays

The US Mission observes official US holidays and also closes on the following local holidays:

Good Friday	Variable
May 1	Labor Day
May 21	Battle of Iquique
August 15	Assumption Day
September 11	National Liberation Day
September 18 and 19	Independence Days
October 12	Columbus Day
November 1	All Saints Day
December 8	Immaculate Conception

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